

Home Builders contribute labor, materials to build second scholarship house

The Home Builders Association of Statesboro is well on its way to completing its second scholarship house. Profits from the sale of the house will go into a scholarship endowment begun in 1980 after the sale of the group's first scholarship house.

The new house, on Oak Ridge Drive, has been dried in and is ready for interior work, said Donald NeSmith, co-chair of the project.

"Hopefully by the home show we will have dry wall in, if people have time to work on it," said NeSmith.

It is an "Atlanta-style" house, with living area on one floor and a full basement, with a brick exterior, said NeSmith. It has three bedrooms, two baths, a great room, formal dining room, breakfast room, utility room and storage room in 1,900 square feet of heated area, plus about 1,700 square feet of unfinished basement.

Land for the house was donated in honor of the late Alvin Rocker, a charter Home Builder, by family members Patsy and David Bobo and Rocky Bobo.

Members of the Home Builders have donated manpower and supplies and are performing work at actual cost to increase the profit that will come in when the house is sold.

"Each builder was allotted a different section of the house, and all of the builders are doing their share, doing their part," said Ellis Cartee, the other co-chair of the project.

About 30 firms are participating in the house, said NeSmith, donating materials, supplies or labor.

Members of the Home Builders hope that sale of the house will increase the endowment of the group's scholarship fund to \$100,000.

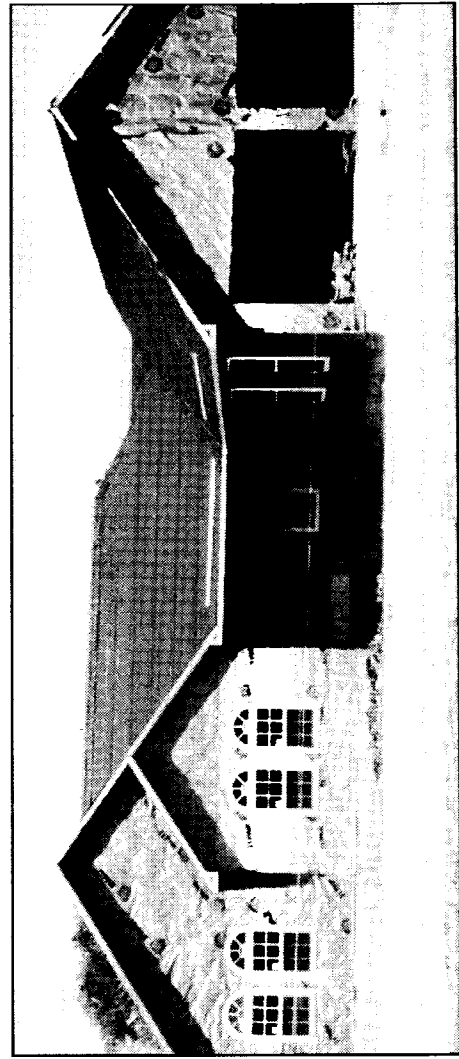
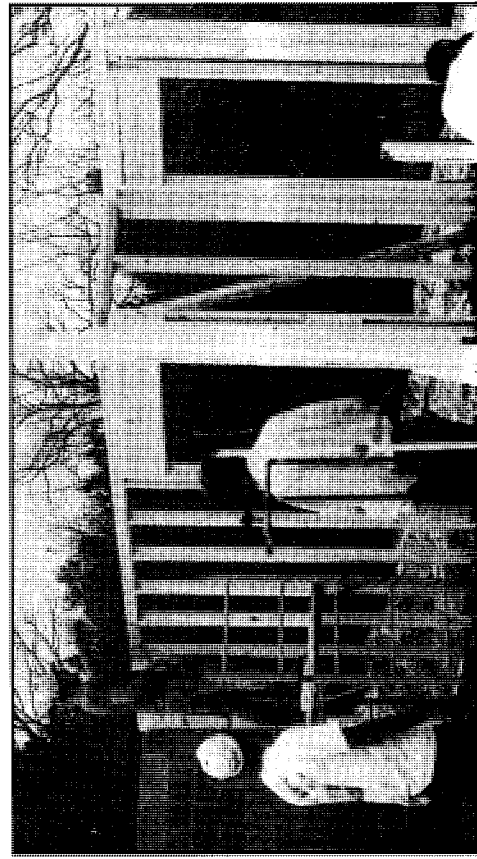
The scholarship fund was begun with the sale of the group's first house in 1980. One of

the builders gave the lot and members contributed materials and labor to that house, which resulted in a profit of \$25,000 to start the scholarship fund. Other gifts have been added since then, bringing the principal up to about \$65,000, so builders are hopeful that this house will bring them up to the \$100,000 mark.

"It wouldn't surprise me if we make \$30,000 to \$40,000," said NeSmith. "That's only because of all the donations. Builders don't make that kind of profit on a house."

Builders have been giving two to three scholarships each year to students in Georgia Southern's Building Technology and Interior Design programs, using the interest from the fund.

"With \$100,000, we should be able to fund five or six scholarships a year," said NeSmith.



The history of Home Builders

The Home Builders Association of Statesboro was organized in 1968. The association is composed of builders, who are builder members, and suppliers of materials and services, who are associate members. The purpose of the organization is to bring a professionalism to the building trade. In other words, it strives to bring more up-to-date housing to Statesboro and Bulloch County. Practically all reputable builders and suppliers are members of the local association.

The Home Builders Association of Statesboro was chartered in 1977. It is a member of the Home Builders Association of Georgia and the National Association of Home Builders. The local association meets on the first Thursday night of each month. The State and National organizations meet quarterly with representatives of the local association attending. The National Association sponsors an annual Home Builders Show where everything new in the building industry is on display. Con-

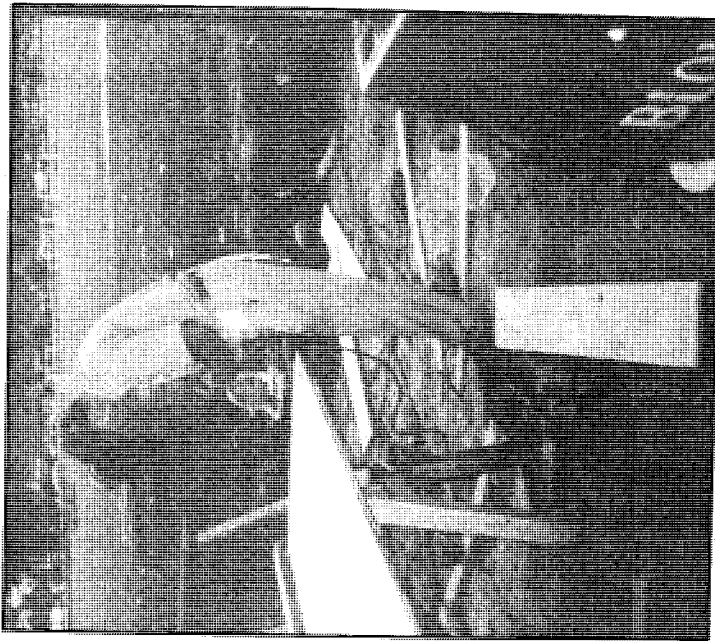
sequently, the members of the Home Builders of Statesboro can stay abreast of the state-of-the-art building concepts; and as a result, are bringing better housing to this area.

Late in 1979, several members of the local association began talking about building a scholarship house. One of the builders gave the lot on which to build the house, which is located at 121 Oakcrest Drive. The Lightsey Construction Company built the house at no profit with other members of the association contributing part of the labor and materials. As a result, the Home Builders Association of Statesboro was able to give \$25,000 to the Georgia Southern College Foundation in 1980 to establish a scholarship fund for students majoring in building technology and interior design. During the 11 years since the time of the initial gift, additional amounts have been added so that the corpus now stands at a little more than \$65,000.

Each year since the fund was established, two scholarships of \$1,000 each have been awarded to worthy students in the building trade at Georgia Southern. In addition to these local scholarships, the Sinker Foundation and the National Association of Home Builders have each contributed annual scholarships of equal value to other deserving students.

Soon after the inception of the Home Builders Association of Statesboro, a student chapter was organized at Georgia Southern College. That chapter is still very active.

Over the past few years, members of the local association have worked tediously with the Statesboro City Council and the Bulloch County Commis-



Dr. Ralph Lightsey has spent many years helping to shape people's lives — both in construction and in education.

SPECIAL PHOTO

sioners to implement standard building codes. As a result of these efforts, and the available information on the State and National levels, all of us can expect a continual improvement in housing in the years that are ahead.

— Dr. Ralph Lightsey

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